Thirtieth Anniversary of the Economic Commission for Africa, April 1988

Introduction

1. On 29 April 1988, the Economic Commission for Africa will have been in existence for 30 years*. Although fitting celebrations were organized during the various marking points in the history of the ECA, first in 1969 for its tenth Anniversary, then in 1979 for its twenty-first Anniversary and in 1983 for its twenty-fifth Anniversary, it will only be proper to celebrate the thirteith Anniversary of the Commission, the first African International Organization to cover the entire continent.

2. The Commission has contributed significantly to the preparation and adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos by our heads of State and Government in April 1980, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 (APPER) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its Twenty-first Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 July 1985 and which led to the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) by a special session of the General Assembly held in May 1986.

3. This paper contains information on the there and activities proposed for the celebration of the thirtieth Anniversary of ECA.

The twenty-second session of the Commission, thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, through the eighth meeting of the Technical Committee of the Whole (TECOW) is accordingly invited to give due consideration to the proposals which follow:

Theme of the thirtieth Anniversary:

Member States are invited to propose and agree on a fitting there for the thirtieth Anniversary celebration.

Thirtieth Anniversary Lecture:

An eminent African personality, possibly at the Head of State level will be invited to grace the celebrations with his presence and deliver the thirtieth Anniversary lecture.

Main Events of the Thirtieth Anniversary:

Activities proposed for the observance of the thirtieth Anniversary of the Economic Commission for Africa fall within four functional levels:

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* ECA was established in pursuance of resolution 671 (XXV) of 29 April 1958 of the Economic and Social Council

(a) at the level of ECA member States

(b) at the regional level and during the twenty-second session of the Commission

(c) at the level of the ECA secretariat

(d) at the level of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) as well as ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions in Africa.

The Government of the country hosting the session will be expected to play an important role for the twenty-second session of the Commission. Details will be worked out after due consultations with the host government.

A1. The thirtieth Anniversary at the National Level (Participation of ECA member States)

It is proposed that wherever they exist all national Committees/Associations of the United Nations should be kept informed and assisted (through appropriate Journals, News letters etc...) to draw up and implement programmes of celebration in collaboration with UNDP and other United Nations Offices, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Planning, Information, Finance, Education etc... as appropriate.

A2. Film Shows

Member States will be provided with assistance to enable them to show on their national television networks documentary films on the contribution of ECA to African Socio-Economic Development.

A3. Commemorative Postage Stamps

Member States will be invited to issue postage stamps in commemoration of the thirtieth Anniversary of the Commission.

A4. Cultural Events

Member States may wish to include cultural events in their respective thirtieth Anniversary programmes.

Thirtieth Anniversary at the Regional Level

Twenty-second session of the Commission and Inaugural Ceremony

It is proposed that a thirtieth Anniversary statement be made by the Executive Secretary of ECA, in addition to messages from the current Chairman of the OAU, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

Exhibition

It is proposed that an Exhibition should be organized and its focus should be: Water Resources Development in the drought-stricken countries of the African Region or any other relevant issue which the meeting may agree on.

Special Publications (other than documents for the twenty-second session)

These will include:

1) A special brochure on »«ECA at 30»
This will be an update of the present edition of ECA today.

2) ECA and the Economic Crisis in Africa: an assessment of the contribution of the Commission.

3) and/or a symposium on the above topic could be organized and its conclusions published

This is expected to be a substantive document consisting largely of contributions from ECA substantive Divisions. An eminent personality in the field of Economic Cooperation for Development will be invited to write the Foreword.

4) Thirtieth Anniversary brochure of messages and greetings

Messages of goodwill and greetings received from member States, International or African Organizations and NGOs will be included in this brochure.

Participation of the ECA Secretariat

A special programme of cultural, social and sporting activities is planned under the auspices of the ECA secretariat (Administration and the Staff Council).

All other staff members of the United Nations System of Organizations resident in Addis Ababa will be invited to participate in these activities.

The other International Organizations such as the OAU, ILCA and DLCO will also be associated.

Participation of MULPOCs and the ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions

Since most of ECA's Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) would have been in existence for about a decade, it will be desirable to associate them and have them organize special celebrations activities at their respective Headquarters.

Similarly, all other ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions will also be expected to prepare programmes for the celebrations of this thirtieth Anniversary.

These may include lectures, debates and other literary activities; film shows; exhibitions; sporting and athletic competitions and other social and cultural events.

Conclusion:

In order to adequately implement this proposed fitting programme, albeit limited in scope for obvious reasons linked with the current financial crisis in the United Nations, the full support of ECA member States and sister institutions in the planning, organization and implementation of the above-mentioned thirtieth Anniversary programme will be necessary.

Member States may wish to set up a co-ordinating committee which will not only plan and implement programmes at the national level, but will also be responsible for liaison with ECA headquarters.

Since some of the events proposed will involve the award of modest prizes such as trophies, silver cups and other, the generosity of member States will be essential.

These celebrations will no doubt contribute to further popularize the activities of the Commission in its member States. It is therefore hoped that at the national level, some individuals and organizations as well as Government Departments will come forward with cash or other types of donations.

There shall be an official register in which all such donations, whether from member States, organizations or individuals, will be entered.

Finally, the ECA Executive secretariat expects member States to be well represented at the twenty-second session/thirtieth Anniversary celebrations of the Commission and to fully participate in it.